



THE DASHPOT



Issue 60 Newsletter of the Association of Minemen Winter 2007



FROM THE PRESIDENT Robert Hart

As I proudly assume the office of President of the Association of Minemen, I wish to thank the membership who attended the 33rd. annual reunion in San Diego, CA for their confidence in me and for allowing me to serve the Association for the next three years.

I am a bit overwhelmed to realize that I am joining the ranks of exceptional leaders who have graced this office from its inception.

I also wish to congratulate Ron Swart in taking up the position of Vice President. I know he is and will be a valuable asset to the Association, and I couldn't ask for more knowledgeable and amiable person to work with for the coming term.

We have retained Bob Stancik and Willie Wilson as members of the Board of Directors, and have elected Kenneth Waringa to serve out my term on the Board. Welcome aboard, Gentlemen.

I must offer "Bravo Zulu" to our departing President, Bill Johnson, and Vice-President, Warren Savage for their leadership. Well Done, Gentlemen!

Thanks also are in order to Warren Savage, Gary Cleland, W. C. Holloway, Jerry Chipman, Jim Miller, et. al. for their hard work in making our reunion a successful and enjoyable one, and providing us with that wonderful Southern California weather. It was great to renew acquaintances and make new friends.

Rear Admiral John J. Waickwicz (read Wakewitz), Commander, Naval Mine & Anti-Submarine Warfare Command in San Diego was our guest speaker for the dinner and

Continued on Page 3

34TH ANNUAL ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN REUNION, CHARLESTON, SC

OCTOBER 10-12, 2008

I know all of you good people that are scattered over this great nation can hardly wait to get back to the low country.

The reunion will take place at the Town & Country Inn & Conference Center 2008 Savannah Highway Charleston, SC 29407. All functions will take place at this location.

Room reservations can be made now by calling the Inn; 1-(800)- 334-6660 Group Room Rate: \$99.00 plus 12.5 % tax per room per day. A cash deposit for the first night's room and tax or a Credit Card Number is required to guarantee this reservation. For those paying in cash, the required deposit is \$111.38. Our Group Code is MINEME.

The prices for the dinner and the picnic will be published in the next DASHPOT. They are not firm at this time. If you have any questions about the reunion give me a call at 843-797-3715 or e-mail me at rdschommer@hotmail.com

**THERE IS NOTHING MORE FRIGHTFUL THAN
IGNORANCE IN ACTION.**

JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE

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THE ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN



DEDICATED TO SERV- ING THE U.S. NAVY MINE FORCE

The Dashpot, published quarterly, is the newsletter of the Association of Minemen, a non-profit organization incorporated in the state of South Carolina with the mission of perpetuating knowledge of undersea mine warfare and championing its necessity as one of America's first lines of defense.

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WEBMASTER

Phil Dechene
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President continued.

imparted to us several changes that are in progress concerning the new era of undersea warfare. Bill Johnson presented a copy of "*U.S. NAVAL MINES AND THE MINEMEN, A History*" and a gold coin of the Association of Minemen to the Admiral, and pronounced him an Honorary Mineman to the applause of all.

One of my collateral duties is to serve as Chaplain of the Association, and it is with a sense of sorrow that I must report that the Association of Minemen honored the memory of twenty-five shipmates of whose deaths we have learned since our last reunion. The names, ranks, places and dates of death as we know them may be found on the AOM webpage. I have asked and am asking for someone to step forward and take up the appointment of Chaplain of the Association. Contact me if you are interested.

The 2007 Association of Minemen active duty Mineman of the year is, MN1 (SW) Favian Garcia, USS Conflict, MSO-426. The 2007 Association of Minemen Navy Reserve duty Mineman of the year is, MN1 David B. Davies, NR MOMAU 9, JRB, Fort Worth, TX. It was also proposed, and approved to create a new award for the active duty, shore-based Mineman of the year. The purpose of this new award is to recognize these Minemen as well as the sea and reserve Minemen.

Scholarship Chairman, Bill "Swede" Carlsen reported fifteen scholarships awarded this year. Kudos to those recipients.

The 2008 reunion will be held at the Town and Country Inn on Savannah Highway (Rt. 17), Charleston, SC. MNCM Ret. Dick Schommer is again heading up the reunion committee and hosting the festivities. In the winter 2004 Dashpot, Dick said, and I quote, "I will be too damn old to host the next one." Well, Dick, I for one am thankful that you have not gotten too old yet. Thanks again for taking on this tremendous project. God Bless America!

**Expecting the world to
treat you fairly because
you're a good person is
like expecting a bull not
to attack you because
you're a vegetarian.**

- Dennis Wholey

MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN

Meeting held on 20 Oct. 2007 in San Diego, CA

Some entries are taken from the BOD meeting.

The president called the meeting to order at 1406.

Minutes of the meeting held in Panama City Beach were read and accepted.

The treasurer's report was given and accepted.

A discussion was put on the floor concerning obtaining an 800 phone number for the AOM. It was decided not to purchase the phone line.

A discussion was put on the floor concerning changing the reunion days to Saturday, Sunday, and Monday each year. This was tabled until the 2008 meeting in Charleston. This in order to give members time to think about it.

The Treasurers reported that in 2008 we would have to file with IRS on line each year due to a new IRS policy. A motion was made to allow the treasurer to employ the use of an accountant if needed. Motion passed.

Ron Swart reported on the museums. Ron will check on getting Mineman "stuff" from the Yorktown.

Warren Savage brought up the fact that Yorktown had a Bushnell Keg mine that was on loan to us and that we need to recover it.

The President entertained a motion to make RADM Waickwicz an honorary Mineman. Motion passed.

The President announced that Minemen of the year would be awarded to:

Active Duty.....MN1 (SW) Favian Garcia
Reserve Duty.....MN1 David B Davies

Robert Hart reported that he was still working on the bond for the bank account holders.

Curtis Christian reported that Bill Mehard needed to give up the molds for Mineman of the year. Ron Swart stated that he would take care of it.

The President reported that he needed help with the criteria for the AOM Service Recognition Award. Bob Hart stated that he would talk to Toby Horn about it.

A discussion on our web site brought out the fact that we were about out of space. A motion was made to have Phil Dechene purchase our own web site and our own domain. The treasurer will provide Phil with funds up to the amount of \$1000.00 as needed. Motion passed.

A discussion on renting a storage shed was put on hold until the 2008 meeting.

A discussion on needing to print a larger Dash-Pot was brought up. Curtis will check with the Post Office and the printers to determine the cost.

Ron Swart made a motion to have the selection of MN of the year to be made in the first quarter of the year as to allow time for the recipients to use it on there evaluations. Motion passed.

Ron Swart made a motion that the AOM give two active duty MN of the year awards each year. One award for the shore duty Mineman and one award to the sea duty Mineman. The reserve award to remain the same. Motion passed.

The following members were nominated for offices as follows:

President.....	Robert Hart	(08-10)
Vice President.....	Ron Swart	(08-10)
BOD.....	Robert Wilson	(08-10)
BOD.....	Robert Stancik	(08-10)

With no other nominations from the floor the above officers were elected.

The incoming President appointed Ken Waringa to serve on the BOD in the position given up by Robert Hart. (Sec. Note: This term will expire in 2008.)

It was decided to have the AOM, send a letter to CDR Anderjack to invite active duty members to serve as regional representatives of their area.

Swede Carlsen reported on the scholarship committee. We gave out 15 scholarships this year. Three from the Scholarship Fund, one from the Benevolent Fund, and eleven from an anonymous donor.

The President presented Mr. William Bash with the Clock Cockers award.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1406.

Respectfully Submitted,
Curtis Christian



FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY



For those of you who made it to San Diego I sure hope you had a ball. I do not think they will ask us back again. At our Sunday picnic in 2003 a fire started. This year at our picnic, a fire started. Guess we just have a lot of "HOT MINEMEN".

We did have a wonderful time thanks to the hard work of the San Diego crew. We owe them a **BIG** thank you.

Thanks to one \$1000.00 donation, five \$100.00 donations and many smaller donations we received \$1834.50 for next years scholarship awards.(this figure included \$267.50 from the auction)

Please remember when you send in your dues to send a few bucks for the scholarship fund.

See you in Charleston next year.

Curtis

**NEXT DASHPOT
ARTICLES ARE DUE
1 MARCH 2007**



SCHOLARSHIP SCOOP

by Swede Carlsen

The AOM has made a good start on the 2008 scholarship donations. So far we've recieved \$1,567 in donations from individual members and \$267.50 made from the reunion's auction at the picnic held at Admiral Baker Park. Let's keep it rolling with some great donations during the holiday season and into the new year.

The AOM assistance scholarships has helped worthy students to attain degrees in Law, Medicine and Engineering. We've helped many college and technical students earn degrees. Lets continue helping america's qualified students in attaining a sheepskin.

STAND TALL AMERICA



FROM THE WEBMASTER

Below are recently changed or added e-mails on the AOM WEB Site. There have been several inquiries about e-mail addresses on the AOM WEB Site that are bouncing. If you are listed on the site please check to see if your address is correct. If changes are required or you wish to be listed on the site e-mail me the information at pdechene@triad.rr.com. Phil DeChene AOM WEB Master

E-mail – Active Duty

11/30/07 - Laura (MIMI) Dierks (Rodriguez) MNCS (SW); Work: laura.dierks@navy.mil; Personal: mn2rod@hotmail.com

10/23/07 - John D. Stanford MN2; john.d.stanford@navy.mil

E-mail – Reservist

11/30/07 - Richard Fortunato, MNC USNR; fortunato95@msn.com

11/29/07 - David B. Daves, MN1; davesdavid@hotmail.com

E-mail – Retired

12/01/07 - Anthony Bartoli MNC (SW); Mncsonar99@yahoo.com

11/30/07 - CWO4 William (Bill/Tex) Holloway; bholloway10@cox.net

11/26/07 - Fred Dane MN1; battle48@netgate.net

11/26/07 - Brian Allston MNCS (SW); allstonb@gmail.com

10/01/07 - A. B. Hinman MNCS; abhinman73@knology.net

09/23/07 - Lt Don Moody; DonMoody@kw.com

09/14/07 - CWO-2 R. F. [Stan] Stancik; rfstan@yahoo.com

09/13/07 - CWO- 4 James F. Mcdonough; gunnermcd@comcast.net

09/12/07 - Bob Spencer, MNCS; robert_a_spencer@yahoo.com

09/12/07 - Jim Cernick MN1; BARKINPIG@aol.com

09/12/07 - Craig K. Born MNC (SW); samborn@cableone.net

E-mail – Ex-Minemen

11/30/07 - Daniel E. Stewart MN3; danandbevsfarm@juno.com

11/15/07 - Michael L. Gonzalez (gonzo); MN3; mlgonzalez66@hotmail.com

10/17/07 - Frank Ross MN3; xstrm348@hotmail.com

09/15/07 - Richard (Rick) Snow MN3; rsnow69@earthlink.net

09/12/07 - Alicia Hoog, MN3; avh9@sbcglobal.net

09/12/07 - Derick S. Hartshorn MN3; DerickH@charter.net



Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Fifteen, Ingleside, TX, Winter 2007

Rogue's Gallery



Subic Crew 1961 - 1962

If you recognize anyone in this image, please let Phil Dechene know at pdechene@triad.rr.com





From the Labyrinth of the Historian

by Jim Cernick

Howdy AOM and Hello MW. I hope everyone had a great time at the reunion, I'm sorry I missed it and I will try to make it to Charleston next year.

A great thanks goes out to Richard Troutman and Earl Roberts for their generous submissions of MW history, including, pictures, patches, newsletters, and decals to the cause. Also, thanks to Joe Schrieber, Jr. of the Naval Mine Warfare Assoc. for his inputs. Keep the history coming. We cannot begin to build a Mine Museum, one that truly reflects and respects our history, with out your generous help.

Anything and everything, donate please, if you can, email me on anything you want to sell. That includes photos; albums; uniforms; insignia; and cruise books; etc. I still need a few of the first newsletters. Thanks to Earl and Richard, I've got all the rest. If you have any of the very first issues, please send them. Copies are great too.

MW, please go to <http://navy.togetherweserved.com/usn/servlet/tws.webapp.WebApp?cmd=JoinNow>, and work on inputting or updating your service info. This will aid greatly in any and all of our forthcoming history projects, and who knows, you might just locate and old shipmate. Push AOM in the school again, build it in the mine shops, and sail it in the fleet.

I know you guys and gals, out floating in the boxes, are sick of losing at midnight Jeopardy. With that, I now have 12 FREE 1 year memberships for any new members, active duty, E-6 and below MN, who are the first to email me the correct answer to ANY of the following:

The name of the ship that lead the Surrender Fleet into Tokyo Harbor; or the name of the first invading ship to enter Okinawa waters; or name the most decorated MW Squadron of WW2.

REVENGE / ELLYSON / 20, contact me at barkinpig@AOL.com.

Until next time, take care and have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

DTTAFSA, BPIG sends

An SR-72 In The Works?

By Vago Muradian - Air Force Times Staff writer

Posted : Monday Jun 18, 2007 20:00:57 EDT

Ten years after the Air Force retired the SR-71 spy plane, Lockheed Martin's legendary Skunk Works appears to be back at work developing a new Mach-6 reconnaissance plane, sources said.

The Air Force has awarded Lockheed's Advanced Development Projects arm a top-secret contract to develop a stealthy 4,000-mph plane capable of flying to altitudes of about 100,000 feet, with transcontinental range. The plan is to debut the craft around 2020.

The new jet - being referred to by some as the SR-72 - is likely to be unmanned and, while intended for reconnaissance, could eventually trade its sensors for weapons.

The new aircraft would offer a combination of speed, altitude and stealth that could make it virtually impervious to ground-based missiles, sources said. Even the SR-71 is said to have evaded hundreds of missiles fired at it during its long career, although some aircraft sustained minor damage.

But experts say enormous challenges remain. First, the SR-71's top speed was about 2,200 mph. Pushing a plane at twice that speed in the thin air of the upper stratosphere would require exceptionally powerful engines. Second, friction at high speeds could reduce stealth.

"An aircraft with these characteristics could prove a potent response to anti-satellite weapons," said Loren Thompson of the Lexington Institute. "If U.S. reconnaissance satellites were lost, an SR-72 could get to areas of interest quickly and provide persistent surveillance in place of the satellite."

And don't bother asking the Air Force or Skunk Works executives about their work. None is commenting.

"As a matter of policy, we don't talk about classified programs - whether or not they exist," Lockheed's Tom Jurkowsky said.





TAPS

DANE, Mary

Mary Dane, wife of MN1 Fred Dane, USN (Ret.); passed away on 23 October 2007 at San Jose, CA.



Brooks, Marietta

Marietta Brooks, wife of MNCM William Brooks (Deceased), passed away 22 January 2007.



Hon, Gaylord MN3, USN

MN3 Gaylord Hon, USN (Hon. Disc.), transferred to the Great Mineshop in the Sky on 28 APR 2006 at Nashville, NC.

He left Millbrook Ave., Dover, NJ for bootcamp at Bainbridge, MD and graduated 23 SEP 1956. He attended Mineman class "A" school at Yorktown, VA, class number 5-57 convened 1 OCT 1956, graduating 18 JAN 1957. 29 FEB 1957 he reported to Fleet Aircraft Squadron (FASRON) 112, Whidbey Island, WA, "the mineshop on the hill".

From Whidbey, he transferred to NAD Oahu, Territory of Hawaii (date unknown). He met Mr. Don DeCrona there and had utmost respect for him. He almost stayed in because of him. We were both there when Hawaii received statehood.

He was advanced to MN3 at West Loch 16 DEC 1958 and received his Honorable Discharge 26 JUN 1962.

In November of 1964 he joined the Roxbury Township, NJ Police Department as a patrolman. In January 1974, he received a Certificate of Membership in the NJ Narcotics Enforcement Officer's Association. He was disabled as a Lieutenant and medically retired in JAN 1981.

Fair winds and following seas, my friend. May the wind always be at your back.

Ross Maddocks sends.

IVY, Linwood W., MNCS, USN (Ret.)

MNCS Linwood W. Ivy, USN (Ret.), passed away on the 23rd of Nov 2007. No cause of Death was listed. He lived in Charleston, SC since retirement. Sonny was 60 years old. He is survived by his wife, Helen, of James Island, SC.



PARSONS, Ralph Franklin, MNC, USN (Ret.)

MNC Ralph Parsons, USN (Ret) entered into eternal rest on the evening of 13 October 2007. He was 74 years old. He was interred at the Plantation Memorial Gardens on 16 October 2007 with military honors.

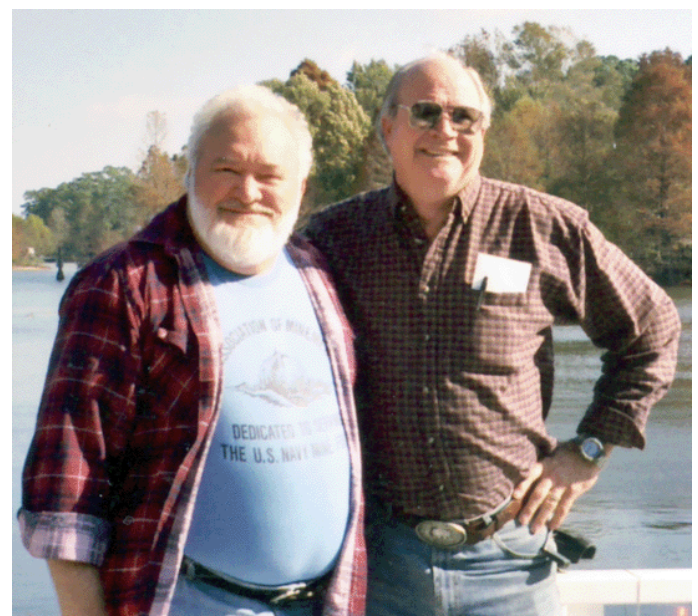
Ralph was born 17 February 1933 in Twila, Kentucky, a son of the late Rudolph Parsons and the late Henrietta Slusher Parsons. After retiring from the US Navy, he went to work as an electrician at the Charleston Naval Shipyard and subsequently retired from there as well.

Surviving are his wife of 52 years, Yukie, of Goose Creek, two daughters, a son, three brothers, three sisters, eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren.



WALDROP, Otto, MNC, USNR

MNC Otto Waldrop, USNR, passed away on 3 May, 2007 in Atlanta, GA. No further details are available.



Curtis Christian and Bill Johnson trying to decide how big to say the fish was that got away.



MAIL BAG

24 Oct. 07

Hi ya all,

Well at long last here I am again with my dues for 2 years. All is going well up here in Beautiful Boothbay Harbor Maine – Boating Capital of New England. Kathleen and I are doing well – aging like a fine bottle of wine, (still FULL). Nothing strong to drink for 20 years. Never would have thought that!!

Young Ross and his wife, Raechel married 3 years now and trying to make us grandparents – no luck so far. They live in South Portland ME sixty miles away.

Heard the San D reunion was another great success with a lot of work done as usual by the few to do so much.

Could these coordinators be recognized by a certificate to let them know that the ones who enjoy the fruits of their labors do appreciate it. Their work is what gets us all together.

I'll try for the Charleston reunion.

Love the Dashpot, but hate TAPS. So many shipmates. I always dip my flags to each. Why the long letter - I have an entry for Taps. Damn – Good Story behind it though. My wife, Kathleen, was a chambermaid at a local motel/marina and became friendly with lots of folks over the years. Of course she heard, "My nephew was in the Navy too – maybe your husband knows him." Sure, right... This went on for 2 – 3 years when she came here for her yearly week. My wife asked me if I knew a Gaylord Hon who worked on explosives – Did !!! We were in bootcamp (Bainbridge), "A" School, Whidbey Island, WA and Hawaii together. He was at West Loch while I was as Barber's Point attached to FASRON 117.

Even after he got out we stayed in touch and when passing through NJ stayed with him and his wife. Later he moved and we lost touch with one another. His aunt got us back together again. Strange world, makes you wonder. He and his have been up here to visit and we have visited them on his tobacco farm in Nashville, NC. He found relatives there so he moved. You can see his house and wave when on I-95 North.

When he found out that they sprayed 120+ chemicals on the leaves before going to the plant, he quit smoking; too late, though, as he

lost a lung. Another reason to quit, guys! He kicked them off his property which I-95 goes thru.

Even his military career was brief. He was a sharp, 4.0 sailor who made E-5 before getting out. He elected to get out before he sewed it on. Quite a feat in those days as some might remember.

Although he was a one-time "cruiser", I would like to have this put into the Taps section as homage to a friend and shipmate. He thought so much of the Navy that he had a closet for his military gear – been out of the force for a while, but his uniforms were sharply hanging with spit-shined shoes beneath them. Here is a rundown on Gaylord courtesy of his wife and family.

Editor's note: See the Taps Section for details. We stayed in touch until the big "C" came on the scene and he was buried on his beloved farm which gave him much enjoyment.

So, hopefully, if you do put this in the Taps section, could you please send me 4 extra copies and I will pay for them. I believe the families would like them.

Oh, Chris, you'd like this – he was a member of the Confederate Veterans of Nashville, NC.

Well, now that I have written the longest letter in years, I'll have to go and continue my favorite pastime, "Watching the Trees Grow".

Best of all to all always and in all ways.

Your shipmate,
Ross, Stinky, Cho Dai (Pick one.)

**I CAN REMEMBER WHEN
BYOB MEANT BRING YOUR OWN
BOTTLE INSTEAD OF BRING YOUR OLD
BIDDY.**

WILLIAM FORTNER 2007

Dear Mineman Scholarship Association,

Thank you so much for your consideration and scholarship of \$1750. I recently had to buy an assortment of instruments that totaled almost \$700.

This scholarship greatly helped to cover the cost of that. Thank you again for your tremendous generosity.

-Trevor

August 12, 2007

Dear Committee,
I wish to thank the Association of Minemen Committee for the check in the amount of \$750. Once again, it will be put to good use. I am continuing my education at Oregon State University this fall. I am officially a junior studying business. I am also continuing to play baseball. As you know last year we won the Pac-10 and also the NCAA College World Series! It was a dream come true. Well, this year, after struggling in the Pac-10 we went on to win the NCAA College World Series again!! Back-to-Back Championships! The only word to describe it is UNBELIEVEABLE! I still have two more years of eligibility left and I am enjoying every minute of it!

I thought you would be interested in knowing that this spring I was selected honorable mention to the Pac-10 all-academic team. I am continuing to work hard at school...I know it isn't all about baseball!

Thank you again for your support and generosity. It is greatly appreciated. I hope that there are a few Beaver fans out there!

Sincerely, John Wallace

23 June 2007

Dear Shipmate Curtis,
I was pleased to receive the Association of Minemen membership card signed by President Johnson. The By Laws were forwarded with the card and have been read and are appreciated.

I would be interested in receiving any other printed material that you have relating to the Association's schedule of meetings, periodic conventions, chapter locations, POCs, history, etc.

As an active member of Branch 24 of the Fleet Reserve Association here in Annapolis I would like to recruit any local Association of Minemen Members to join the FRA if they are not already members. I am the Branch Membership and Retention Chair (plus Chaplain, 2nd VP, and FRA Rep to the Maryland State Legislature)

A year or so ago the FRA revised its membership eligibility to include all honorably discharged former sea service members (USN, USMC and USCG) and removed the requirement that members be career retirees. If you have any questions about that please contact me via e mail or at 410 263 3989. I was able to order my rating badge from the NEX as you advised.

Thanks for your assistance in all of this.
Sincerely, James F. Durry



Over The Tajirail



Thank God It's Friday Flag

by Don DeCrona

The new mine shop located next to the airfield NAF Naha, Okinawa airfield at Senaga Shima opened on 15 November 1966. Every Friday, the shop would hoist their "TGIF" flag signifying that it was Friday and the time to party. The flag had the below picture. I do not know the origin of the tradition to fly the flag or who came up with the design for the flag. If someone does know, please enlighten us. I took this picture of the flag prior to our activation of the new mine shop.



Sketch



Finished flag



Rogues, Rascals and Renegades

The Wicked Warriors of Waianae

by the editor when he was a young minnow in the sea of life.

Long, long ago and far, far away in the land of leis, ti leaf skirts and shakes-in-the-grass, there was a magical place called Waianae. In this little bit of paradise, in a quaint, sea side apartment building, did abide several single sailors.

For five days a week, when closely supervised, these sailors toiled long hours at West Loch which sapped their strength to the point of exhaustion. But the island gods demanded sacrifice and ritual of these sailors the other two days.

Saturday mornings began with the sacrifice of a couple of bags of grape or cherry Kool-Ade into the sacramental brown gallon jug followed by two bottles of Ripple Pagan Pink and a quart of vodka. A small amount of water from the sacred stream on tap in the kitchenette completed the potion. This elixir was then shaken, not stirred, and served to the supplicants directly from the sacramental container. The incredible liquid came to be known as "Shake-'em-up", for obvious reasons.

First taken in small sips, then increasingly hefty draughts, the potion stimulated the young sailors to display their physical prowess for the steady stream of golden wahinis who drifted by on the heady aroma of Plumeria blossoms. The young men engaged in ritual contests of volleyball and other feats of physical skill to impress the wahinis. Being an island nation, everything had to be shipped in which made material for swimsuits expensive, but the wahini's made do with as little as possible. This was appreciated by the young sailors and they stared approvingly ... sometimes so hard that the tops of their eyeballs got sunburned.

Eventually, the magic elixir would overcome the young sailors and they could be found draped over most anything horizontal, or sprawled out in the sand like road kill. In every case, the sacred circle of red or purple was prominently displayed beneath their noses, the vividness of the color an indication of their dedication and how long they would be communing with the gods. Other acolytes rolled the devotees into the shade before they became burnt offerings.

One occasion, the Kahuna of the group, a young man I called John, invited me up to share in the sacrifice, participate in the rituals and ogle the wahinis. It was an offer no sailor could resist. I begged leave of She Who Must Be Obeyed and rose up in the middle of the after-

noon to join my shipmates in their celebration. I took my young bulldog puppy with me.

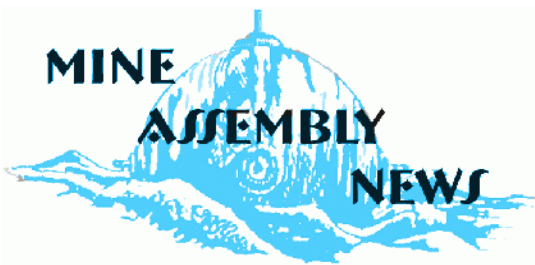
I arrived to find most in deep communion with the gods, some laying half in and half out of the gently breaking surf. It was a sight to behold. Such dedication. It was obvious that I was far behind them. I was offered a sip of the potent libation and carefully flipped the sacramental jug over my forearm and took in a great, honking gulp so I could catch up with the others.

In a split second, my toes curled, my chin left an impression in the sand, my tongue was stripped of its ability to sense flavor and the hair in my nose uprooted itself and ran screaming toward the sea. The religious epiphany was such that I was speechless for several minutes until I was able to breathe again. I could see why the young sailors had reported diving into lawn chairs head first, swimming vigorously in the sand to escape sea monsters, seeing visions and speaking in unknown tongues. Yea, verily, it was good stuff!

I remember little of the remainder of the evening. I do recall moving inside and one devotee prostrating himself in the middle of the temple walkway. Some acolytes dutifully rolled him out of harm's way and set the large coffee table over him to prevent accidents. I remember some time later the fierce and insistent banging on the underside of the coffee table and the terrified cry, **"I AM ALIVE! I AM ALIVE! DON'T BURY ME! I AM STILL ALIVE."** It took several draughts of elixir to calm him.

I awoke the next morning in my own bed not knowing exactly how I had gotten there and feeling like 500 pounds of homemade sin on a popsicle stick. My hair throbbed in agony. I slowly, and I mean slowly so my heels would not slam down on the floor and jar my head, made my way first to the medicine cabinet to get some aspirin and then to the kitchen for some water. On the way, I saw my dog, feet up, laying in the sun and his tongue snaked out like a wide strip of bacon. All manner of bugs were traversing his other places. Ap-
was a bit stout for hurt as bad as he him into the house one aspirin to him We lay on the car-
of the day.





COMOMAG

by MNCS(SW) Mike Cooley

Greetings from South Texas everyone. COMOMAG has been staying busy and welcomes the subtle change in seasons as the weather cools down for the South Texas "winter".

The entire command recently pulled together, under the coordination of our SUPPO, LT **Emma Mathis**, to host a very successful Navy Munitions Command (NMC) Commander's Conference. Commanders from NMC headquarters in Yorktown, VA and all the NMC divisions world-wide flew in for the 3-day conference.

COMOMAG also hosted the annual AOM Mineman of the Year Selection Board and would like to thank all commands who provided submissions along with a "Bravo Zulu" to all 21 outstanding candidates. The competition was tough and the selection board put in some real overtime to make their decision. Congratulations to **MN1(SW) Favian Garcia** from MCM CREW CONFLICT and **MN1 David B. Daves** of NAVAL RESERVE MOBILE MINE ASSEMBLY UNIT NINE on their selection as the 2007 active and reserve AOM Mineman of the Year.



MN1(SW) Garcia



MN1 Daves

LCDR Thomas R. Mathison's retirement ceremony took place 16 November 2007 onboard the USS LEXINGTON Museum on Corpus Christi Bay after serving 30 years of distinguished and faithful service to his country. During his last tour of duty, Lcdr Mathison served as the Chief Staff Officer of COMOMAG from March 2005 - October 2007 as well as Commander from November 2005 - October 2006. Lcdr Mathison and family will be missed by all hands. We wish the traditional fair winds and following sea's to an exceptional leader and sailor. God Speed! We welcome **LCDR Andrew Ashton** as the new CSO reporting from Special Boat Team Twelve Coronado, CA.



CDR Anderjack and Lcdr Mathison



LTJG Cowart and LCDR Mathison



Nice touch - Tail Fins instead of bullets

SOQ: Congratulations and "Bravo Zulu" to **YN1(AW) Rochelle Wilson** for her selection as the COMOMAG Sailor of the Quarter for the 3rd Quarter 2007.



YN1(AW) Wilson

Hail and Farewell

Hail:

YN2(SW) Karl Heitschmidt
LCDR Andrew J. Ashton
SK2(AW) Amenda Duplechan

Arrived:

31 October 07
17 November 07
17 November 07

Farewell

MNCM(SW)

Jerry L. Williams (Ret) 31 Dec 07
LCDR Thomas R. Mathison (Ret)
 01 Jan 08

N31 Service Mine Division has been busy preparing for the second round of the MK 56 Demil. They are also working with MOCC Norfolk VA to convert all the MOMAU's from AISPC to the Measurement Interactive Query System (MIQ). MIQ is a Windows based calibration equipment tracking program that will upgrade the Navy's overall calibration readiness. The MOMAU sites are being converted from ROLMS to the Ordnance Information System -Retail (OIS-R). OIS-R is the future of Ammo Admin. OIS-R is a web-based reporting system that provides real-time data to the fleet, greatly increasing Navy readiness. We have been hard at work updating the major instructions to reduce the workload on the MOMAU sites. N31 would like to say farewell to **MNCM Jerry Williams** who served at COMOMAG as the Command Master Chief from August 2002 to December 2007 and will be retiring on 21 December 2007. Goodbye and thank you for 30 years of service. You will be surely missed, personally and professionally.



MNCM(SW) Williams

N32 Exercise Mines Division has been TAD for a couple of recent exercises. **MNCS(SW) Mike Cooley** got underway with MOMAU 15 aboard the USCGC HARRY CLAIBORNE (WLM-561) to conduct the mine lay for GOMEX 08-1. MOMAU 15 along with the crew of HARRY CLAIBORNE were true professionals as they precisely planted all 18 E/T mines for the Gulf of Mexico MIW exercise in the Corpus Christi Oparea. Their outstanding support contributed to the training and assessment of MCMRON ONE, USS WARRIOR (MCM 10), USS DEVASTATOR (MCM 6), HM-15, and EODMU Six who comprised the SMCM, AMCM, and UCMCM triad.



**GOMEX Minelayer USCGC HARRY CLAIBORNE
(WLM 561)**

Additionally, MNCS(SW) Cooley had the privilege of working with the fine professionals of MOMAU One as they took a COD flight out to the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72) and built 16 MK 62's for COMPTUEX 08-1.

MNC(SW/SS) Jeff Stork also took a little trip out to California to observe MOMAU ONE and USNS SIOUX conduct the mine lay for the San Diego Harbor Experiment. This experiment by Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Center (NMAWC) Corpus Christi is designed to develop and test new Department of Homeland Security initiatives in defense of our own waters.



**Front -MNCS(SW) Cooley,
2nd Row - MN3(SW) Walters, MN3 McRary
3rd Row - MNC(SW) Epton, GM2 Ralston, MN1(SW)
Andrews**

Finally, please keep **MN2 Billy Joe Arthur** and his family in your prayers as he undergoes a bone marrow transplant in his battle with Leukemia. Everything looks optimistic and we all expect a successful end to his bout in the near future.

That's it for this quarter.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS, ALL Y'ALL, FROM
COMOMAG.**



MOMAU ONE SEAL BEACH, CA

by LT G. V. Bodine

CO's CORNER: Once again, greetings from a little chilly but still sunny Seal Beach! It was a busy winter of preparing for mine exercises.

We had a great opportunity to give back to our veterans by entering a mine display and having the crew march in the November 10th Veterans Day Parade in Long Beach. It was an outstanding opportunity for our Sailors to go out and shake hands with the locals.

MOMAU ONE showed an outstanding performance during the base Captain's Cup Sports Day. Although we didn't win, we had lots of fun.

HAILS & FAREWELLS: We welcome aboard MN3(SW) Andrew Fillebrown from USS GUARDIAN (MCM 5), and MN3 Jacob Ray from Crew Persistent.

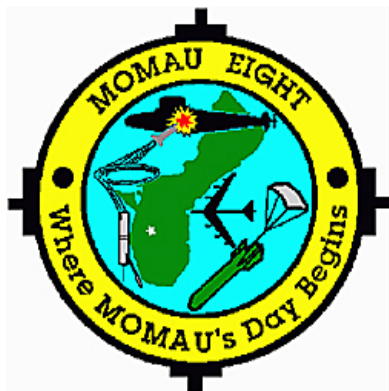
Fair winds and following seas to MN1(SW) Travis Ramsey who transferred to COMCMDIV 31 Bahrain, and IT2(SW) Yasenia Yasay transferred to COMCARSTRKGRU 11, San Diego CA.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION: CONGRATULATIONS to the following personnel on advancement: MN1(SW) Mikael Nissen, MN1(SW) Travis Andrews, YN2(SCW) Christopher Valma, MN3 Shane Mcrary, YN3 Ryan Mullen, and MN3 Christopher Reuss. Congratulations to MN1(SW) Nissen for receiving a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals for his outstanding leadership and teamwork displayed during the ESI.

ON THE HORIZON: We look forward to the upcoming mine exercises and having a safe and enjoyable holiday.

**Egotism is the anesthetic that
dulls the pain of stupidity.**

Frank Leahy



MOMAU EIGHT GUAM, MI

by YN2 Rebeka Davis

First things first, MOMAU EIGHT would like to announce a new addition to our family; MN2(SW) Kyle Baldrige and his wife, Jennifer were blessed with the birth of their son, Nathan, on 22 November 2007.

Operational Notes-

On 21 June, an Explosive Safety Inspection (ESI) was conducted at MOMAU 8. This inspection reviewed the effectiveness of the command's explosive storage and handling policies and procedures, personnel training and qualification/certification program, explosive safety awareness program, inventory accuracy and the use of standard operating procedures (SOPs).

Overall, MOMAU 8's Station Inventory Accuracy and Custodial Accuracy were each rated 100%. These results are both outstanding and rare, and are a testament to the effectiveness of the command. The ESI Inspection team stated that MOMAU 8 "represents a dedicated command-wide effort in implementing and maintaining inventory accuracy processes and controls".

In early November we completed an initial MK 56 Demilitarization Visit with COMOMAG and CSS, which included training in packaging and pre-shipment inspection of MK 56 components. The training took place over a 4 day period in which the crew walked through and streamlined various procedures associated with the upcoming MK 56 Demilitarization.

Community Service-

MOMAU EIGHT has continues to establish an intimate relationship with the village of Talofofo that enhances the Navy's involvement with the community through Talofofo Elementary School (TES). The level of commitment has exceeded the program's basic requirements and has

evolved into a bond between the two parties that can only be summarized by the fact that MOMAU EIGHT and the village of Talofofo are "FAMILY". This relationship resulted in MOMAU EIGHT being nominated for the "Small Overseas Command Partnership in Excellence Program" award by Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Marianas for 2007.

Lastly it is with great regret and joy to see LCDR Jim Washington retire after 30 years and welcome LCDR Matt Kleva as the new Commanding Officer of MOMAU 8.

Sailors of the Quarter 3Q07

SSOQ: MN1(SW) Rosser
JSOQ: MN2(SW) Baldrige
BJOQ: MNSA Davies

HAIL AND FAREWELLS

-Welcome aboard:

IT1(SW) Coates – USS Fort McHenry
YN1(SW/AW) Fundalewicz – VQ-2
MN1(SW) Stafford – NEGB Cuba
MN2(SW) Radford – MCM Crew Conflict
MN2(SW) Simpson – MCM Crew Persistent
MN2(SW) Trammell – MCM Crew Swerve
MNSR Klett – Mine Warfare Training Center
MNSR Davies - Mine Warfare Training Center
MNSR Firmin - Mine Warfare Training Center
MNSR Taylor - Mine Warfare Training Center
MNSR Savellanno - Mine Warfare Training Center

-Transfers/PCS/Retired:

LCDR Washington - Retired
MN3 Guadron – MCM Crew Exultant
MN3 Frazier - Separated
MN3 Sydenham - Separated

MOMAU EIGHT would like to wish everyone a Happy Holidays and a safe and Happy NEW YEAR!!

**"Moral courage
is the most valuable
and usually
the most absent
characteristic in
men."**

General George Patton



MOMAU TEN KADENA, JA

by LT Jessie Sanchez

This has been our first full quarter with our new building completely operational, and it's been a rotating door of complex ordnance evolutions! As always, MOMAU TEN has been lucky in sharing nothing but tremendous success for its personnel and command. Our only sad note is the loss of MN2 Rodney Miller who detached from the command in order to pursue civilian life. He has been truly missed after his remarkable accomplishment last quarter in getting TSM certified. On a positive note, we welcome MN1 Heyer from MCMDIV 11 Sasebo, Japan and MNSA Purt from MWTC Ingleside. Congratulations is in order for SK1(SW) Arao and MNSN Knarr who were recently selected as Senior and Junior Sailors of the Quarter. We also would like to congratulate Petty Officer Second Class Luis Flores on his advancement to Petty Officer First Class and Mineman Seaman Ian Vroman for his selection to Petty Officer Third Class. It is always a privilege and honor to see our sailors advance while taking on more responsibility.

October and November have been extremely busy months as challenges continue to arise for the crew of MOMAU Ten. We finally finished the screening and maintenance of our BLU series bomb bodies, 1 lot of MK 65's, and around 1000 mine components. Additionally, preparations were made to support the Mine Readiness Certification Inspection TAV and the Explosive Safety Inspection TAV, which ended up being cancelled due to logistical shortcomings. The command continues to carry the standard which will ensure success during the

**The biggest troublemaker
you'll probably ever have to
deal with, watches you from
the mirror every mornin'.**



MNSA Dockery transports TDDs after being tested ISO MK 130 kits LongCycle Maintenance (LCM).



MN3 Vroman bands a lot of MK 130 kits after LCM.



MN1(SW) Jordan transports a pallet of BLU series bomb bodies undergoing class B inspection.



LT Sanchez (CO) and MNSA Hamilton load a MK 65 Quickstrike on the semi-tractor trailer after completion of LCM.

actual inspections schedule for March and May of next year.

For the benefit of our junior personnel, we have received and installed 5 new computers to complement the additional office space created during our building renovation. We now have enough desk and stations to support 90% of our assigned personnel. The new workstations not only improve the quality of life of our Sailors, but it also makes it easier and less time consuming for them to complete training courses via NKO and other electronic media.

As December approaches, we are finishing our scheduled maintenance for the year and preparing for a well deserved holiday stand-down. Lastly, we'd like to wish fair winds and following seas to our PHS&T Department Head MN1(SW) Manuel Quintero, who retires in December after 20 years of faithful naval service. We wish him and his wife Dalia the best as the close another chapter of their life and begin a new one as civilians.

Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!

CongressCritic™:
Never have so few felt
like they were owed so
much by so many for so
little.



MOMAU ELEVEN GOOSE CREEK, SC

by MNC Shawn Barker

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes from the world's largest, most productive mine shop! Over the past few months Team ELEVEN has been busy preparing for our Explosive Safety Inspection, performing upgrade assessments, supporting EOD exercises, and completing routine quarterly maintenance. Not only have we been busy, but Team ELEVEN has also been very fortunate with the advancement of nine Sailors including almost half the MN1's Navy wide, and the selection of one Sailor for the STA-21 Program.

Explosive Safety Inspection

We recently completed the biannual Explosive Safety Inspection, which ensures that we can build, maintain, and ship mines safely thus returning your Sailors home to you every day in one piece. The call was for "ALL HANDS ON DECK" and each and every member of Team ELEVEN rose to the occasion and met the inspection head on, scoring OUTSTANDING grade of 98.75% inventory effectiveness and 100% inventory accuracy. Putting a highly successful ESI behind us, Team ELEVEN is looking forward to a well-deserved holiday season.

Weapons Upgrade Assessment

TEAM ELEVEN also recently completed two exceptional weapons upgrade assessments. During this time, MOMAU ELEVEN's active and reserve Sailors performed upgrades on the MK67/MK65/MK63 & MK62 weapon systems while exercising our deploying Mine Assembly Teams. Stretching our capabilities to the max by building more weapons than any previous Upgrade, we did so with a zero major, one minor and zero safety discrepancies while meeting all of our assembly times. Of special note is the achievement of an unprecedented 100% reliability on all MK67 Submarine

Launched Mobile Mines, a weapon that have been around since the 1950s. TEAM ELEVEN achieved this record setting event not once but TWICE!



MN1 Joseph Pawlikowski instructs MN3 Gilbert Priest on the proper routing of the arming wires on a MK63 Quick Strike.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Despite the busy schedule, Team ELEVEN also found time to not only help the people of the surrounding communities, but others around the world. Our Sailors donated well over 2,600 hours of public service during the following events and activities: Fort Dorchester PACT Test Monitoring; 2007 Mid-Winter Special Olympics; Cub Scout Pack 453; "Run the Creek" 5K, Toys of Tots Motorcycle Ride; and various other events throughout the community. Additionally, Team ELEVEN partnered with St. Stephens Elementary School under the Computers for Learning program, providing much needed computers to this rural school. Finally, MOMAU ELEVEN'S, MN1(SW) Jonathan Reece, forward deployed to Afghanistan, also spearheaded "Operation Not Forgotten" providing desperately needed clothes and school supplies to an orphanage in Afghanistan.



MN1(SW) Jonathan Reece embraces an infant at the Afghanistan Orphanage.

RETIREMENTS

MOMAU ELEVEN would like to wish fair winds and following seas to MNC(SW) Ramon Hernandez, who retired after twenty years of honorable service. Best wishes to him and his family.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Advancements:

MN1(SW) Joseph Pawlikowski
 MN1(SW) Nicholas Price
 MN1(SW) Fredrick Paul Saporita
 MN1(SW) Miguel Torres
 MN2(SW) Justin Hanson
 MN2(SW) Robert Lichford
 YN2 Richard Saunders
 MN3 Gilbert Priest
 MN3 Alnesugi Rivera-Febres



LCDR Richard Weiss presents MN2(SW) Robert Lichford with his Frocking Certificate.

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal:
 MN2(SW) Lenn Baxley

Navy Good Conduct Medal:

MNCM(SW) Donald Kiper
 MN1(SW) Miguel Torres
 IT3 Kuiana Barrios

Letter of Commendation:

SK1(SW) Penny Drouse
 MN2(SW) Fredrick-Paul Saporita
 MNSA Courtney Ruble

Letter of Appreciation:

YN2(SW/AW) Keyosha Wilson
 MNSA Courtney Lester
 MN3 Charles Porter
 MN3 Gilbert Priest

Sailors of the Quarter 3Q07:

Senior Sailor of the Quarter:
 SK1(SW/AW) Penny Drouse

Junior Sailor of the Quarter:
MN1(SW) Fredrick-Paul Saporita

Blue Jacket of the Quarter:
MNSA Courtney Ruble

REENLISTMENTS

MN3(AW) Paul Harris Jr. and MN2(SW) Robert Lichford each reenlisted for 6 years. MNCM (SS/SW) Kurt Stauff and MNCM (SW) Donald Kiper each reenlisted for 4 years.



LCDR Richard Weiss presents SK1(SW/AW) Penny Drouse with her SSOQ Award.

DEPARTURES

MNCM(SW) Donald Kiper, Japan
MNC(SW) Ramon Hernandez, Retirement
MNC(SW) Hugh Griffis, Japan
MN2 Martin Ballman, Japan
MN2 Aaron Unruh, Separation
MN2(SW) John Kutrich, Separation
MN2 Joseph James, Ingleside
MN2(SW) Rodney Terry, Separation
MN2(SW) Lenn Baxley, Separation
MN3(SW) Triveni Baron, Separation
MN3 Brandon Bernard, Japan
MN3(SW) Stephen Bates, Ingleside
MN3(AW) Gabriel Cabrera, Separation
MN3(SW) Christopher Caldwell, Separation

NEW ARRIVALS

MN1(SW) Shane Stone
MN2(SW) Hugh Mitchell
MN2(SW) Alexis Sanchez
MN2(SW) Phillip Kurzendoerfer
MN2(SW) Jerald Coppedge
MN2(SW) Eric Gummshheimer
MN2(SW) Robert Linchford
MN3 Brandon Loehman
MNSA Haley Rickner



MOMAU TWELVE MISAWA, JAPAN

by YN1(SW) Ryan Durnell

Seasons Greetings and Happy Holidays from the land of the rising sun, Japan! It's truly been a busy year for us here in Misawa, Japan. Lots of happenings and changes over the past few months in Misawa. So here's a quick snapshot. In April 2007, the crew's hard work and diligence paid off with a very successful Administrative and Material Assessment (ADMAT). Shortly afterward, we conducted the 07-2JA Multinational Exercise with the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force in Mutsu Bay, Japan. In August 2007, CWO3 Richard V. Lute Jr. relieved CWO3 Ronald A. Bly as Commanding Officer. CWO3 Lute was relieved thereafter in November 2007, by LT Ross M. Anderson with CWO3 Lute assuming the Executive Officer position. The crew continues its hard work, preparing for our upcoming bi-annual Mine Readiness Certification Inspection (MRCI) along with 08-1JA. We are now finishing up our workload to enjoy some much deserved holiday stand-down for the crew. They have certainly earned it.

FAREWELLS

CWO3 Bly – Retired
MNCS(SW) Williams – Retiring 30 June 2008
MN1 Hilliard – To MCM CREW CONFLICT
MN3 Keiser – To MCM CREW IMPLICIT
MN3 Doyle – To NATTC Pensacola
MN1 Hanson – To PreComm LCS 1

HAILS/ WELCOME ABOARD

LT Anderson – From USS JOHN S. MCCAIN
CWO3 Lute – From USS COWPENS
MNCM(SW) Kiper – From MOMAU ELEVEN (Jan 08)
MN1(SW) Dillabough – From MHC CREW DETECTOR (Feb 08)
MN2 McFarland – From MCM CREW CON-

FLICT (Mar 08)
MN2 Montalvo – From MCM CREW FEAR-
 LESS (May 08)
MN3 Barrows – From MCM CREW DOMI-
 NANT (Jan 08)
MNSA Holloway – From MWTC
MNSR DeFrancisco – From MWTC
MNSR Valdez – From MWTC

I would also like to take some time to recognize and congratulate the following personnel for a job well done.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

MNCS(SW) Williams JANAFA award (Japanese/American Friendship Association Award)
YN1(SW) Durnell - NAM
MN2(SW) Rupe - NAM
MN2(SW) Goss - NAM
MN3(SW) Staggs - NAM

On The RADAR Screen

We are gearing up for another full year, preparing for another successful MRCI and FCA. Additionally, we will continue to strengthen our relationship with our gracious Japanese hosts, working together on the 08-1JA multi-national exercise. We will also see the final completion of our extensive magazine refurbishment project. The Misawa area fell short of record snowfall for November by less than seven inches, but we have begun what could be an unusually long winter season. Snow, snow, and more snow is definitely in the forecast! In spite of a heavy load, we all look forward to the many rewarding months ahead. Akemashite omedeto gozaimasu, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



MOMAU FIFTEEN INGLESIDE, TX

by YN2 Deborah Barnette

From the CO, LTJG Cowart

Howdy once again from Sunny South Texas. The highs have still been in the 80's as we roll into December. Its been GREAT golf weather!

First order of business is to congratulate IT1 Francis Velazquez and her husband, Jose, on the birth of their son, Jose Daniel, born on Sept 16th. Also we would like to congratulate MN2 Michael Fipps and his wife, Traci, on the birth of their son, Cooper Wesley, on Oct 1st.

This has been a very busy and productive quarter for us. We had two big exercises, VULCANEX and GOMEX that we participated in, lots of command activities, volunteer service, college, preparing for the ESI and our new Commanding Officer, LT McGregor. With that said, this will be my final input as the Acting Commanding Officer of MOMAU 15. I would like to say in has been an honor and a privilege to serve with the Unit 15 personnel. Its been my goal for the last 15 years to be the CO of a MOMAU, its all I ever wanted to do, and while I didn't get to wear the "pin" or have the title without "Acting" in front of it, it was one of the best experiences of my career. I can't thank CDR Anderjack enough for having the confidence in me to have me fill the billet, and the crew of Unit 15 for making it so much fun and constantly teaching me new things about being a leader. I would like to welcome LT Mike McGregor onboard, as the new Commanding Officer. Most of you know him as the former Operations Officer at COMOMAG. He will be a welcomed addition to the command and ensure MOMAU 15's string of success continues.

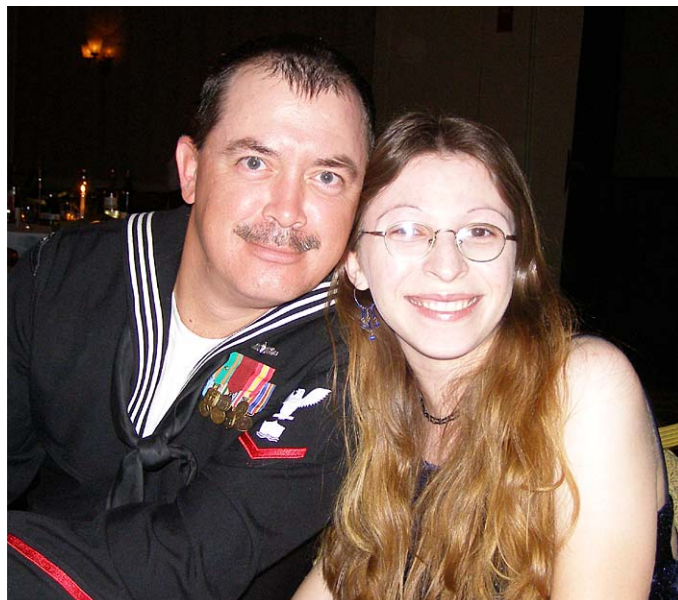
10 members of the command had a unique experience during the recent GOMEX exercise. I would like to applaud the entire crew for staying versatile and using all of their resources during the ever-changing plans and inclement weather for the event, even up to the day of the plant. Command members were able to ride aboard the USCGC HARRY CLAIBORNE (WLM-561) to conduct the mine lay for GOMEX 08-1. MOMAU 15 along with the crew of HARRY CLAIBORNE were true professionals as they precisely planted all 18 E/T mines for the Gulf of Mexico MIW exercise in the Corpus Christi Oparea. This was a great opportunity to get many command personnel out on an exercise who normally wouldn't have the chance, and provided valuable hands on experience.



Preparing for VULCANEX-08

The command also did a phenomenal job preparing for VULCANEX. This was one of the largest plants the command has built for in a long time, and thanks to the forward thinking and planning of our MAO, MNCS Nixon, and our Production Department Head, MNC Rambo, the assets were ready and delivered without a hitch.

Command members also participated in several command fund raisers and volunteer events, always representing Unit 15 in a most professional manner. The command raised close to \$800 this quarter for the MWR, under the direction of MN1 Toby Mozek, with car washes, hot dog & fajita sales, and a command auction. There was also a Chili Cook-off that left MN2 Fedo (actually his wife) with bragging rights. LTJG Cowart came in 2nd place closely followed by MNC Rambo. Although, I don't think it counts if YOU didn't make the chili!



MN3 & April Owens enjoying the Navy Ball

The entire command participated in putting together Thanksgiving Gift baskets for needy local families. The baskets included all of the food and preparation materials needed for these families to have a Happy Thanksgiving. Command Personnel also participated in a fund raiser for a local orphanage (headed up by MN3 Owens) and volunteered for the annual Bayfest Festival.

Our string of success continues as we also advanced 3 personnel to their new ranks: MN2 Robert Sexton, MN2 James Torres, and YN2 Deborah Barnette. CONGRATS on a job well done!!

SSOQ 3Q07
SK2(SWC) Veronica Valdez

JSOQ 3Q07
YN2 Deborah Barnette

Hails & Farewells
LTJG Cowart transferred back to COMOMAG
LT McGregor checked in from COMOMAG
IT2 Wright checked in from NAVCOM Det Korea
MN2 Lampman checked in from MCM Crew Dominant

Awards
MN3 Layne Volckerick received his 1st NAM and a MOSVM
MN2 James Torres received a Good Conduct Medal (2nd)
SK2 Veronica Valdez received a CO's LOC for SSOQ
YN2 Deborah Barnette received a CO's LOC for JSOQ

That's it from MOMAU 15 for this quarter. Hope everyone has a safe and blessed Holiday Season.



MN1 Mozek, MN2 Lile and MN2 Gardner enjoying the Command's Chili cook-off and Christmas Party Auction Fund Raisers.



MNCS Nixon and son Curtis enjoy a command party

MINE COUNTERMEASURES NEWS



FINAL FOUR MHCS DECOMMISSION

by Fifi Kieschnick, Naval Station Ingleside PAO

INGLESIDE, TEXAS — A lonely bugler played as union jacks and national ensigns were lowered marking the end of service for the final four Osprey Class Coastal Mine Hunters . . . USS KINGFISHER (MHC 56), USS CORMORANT (MHC 57), USS BLACKHAWK (MHC 58) and USS SHRIKE (MHC 62) were decommissioned Dec. 1 during traditional formal ceremonies aboard Naval Station Ingleside, Texas, where they had been homeported.

“Just as a commissioning signals a bright future,” said LCDR Andrew Carlson, commanding officer of MHC Crew Endurance embarked in USS CORMORANT, “a decommissioning marks the end of an era.”

“It’s sad that we are decommissioning, retiring four ships that had so much life left in them,” added CAPT Mark Rios, commander, Mine Countermeasures Class Squadron (MCM CLASSRON). “Unmanned, these ships are stripped of life and ultimately will be towed to Beaumont. They may be sold or transferred to other navies, never again to be manned by American Sailors.”

The ceremony also marked the date the ships’ names would be struck from the registry of active Navy ships. And, their ensigns would fly no more, stated RDML John Christenson, Commander, Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command, Corpus Christi.

“This is why we gather together today,” Christenson added, “to honor the coastal mine hunter and her crews, who have paved the way for the next generation of warfighters.”

“Today these ships will turn silent: no crews upon their decks; no sliders on the mess decks; no more painting over the side; no jokes on the fantail; however, each will remain in our memories, in our hearts forever,” Christenson said to the assembled crowd on the Naval Station Ingleside pier.

The Osprey Class ships are the world’s largest glass reinforced plastic (GRP) ships and the

first U.S. Navy ships designed solely for minehunting, the technique of locating mines with sonar and neutralizing them with a remotely controlled underwater vehicle. These ships’ mission is to clear harbor, coastal and ocean waters of acoustic, magnetic, pressure, and contact type mines, using reconnaissance, classification and neutralization tactics. The ships’ design integrates mine countermeasures technology into a uniquely designed platform with exceptionally low magnetic and acoustic signatures to protect against mine detonations during minehunting operations.

These are the final four of the 12 Osprey Class ships to be decommissioned. The first two, USS OSPREY (MHC 51) and USS ROBIN (MHC 54) were decommissioned on June 15, 2006.

The approximately 200 Sailors assigned to MHC Crews DETECTOR, ENDURANCE, EXCEL, and GALLANT, embarked aboard these ships are transferring to new assignments.

“I am honored to share this memorable day with each of you,” said Christenson to the Sailors who had manned the four mine hunters. “As we close the book on a significant chapter in Navy history, we pause to celebrate the accomplishments of the Sailors, past and present, who have proudly served aboard these Navy warships.”

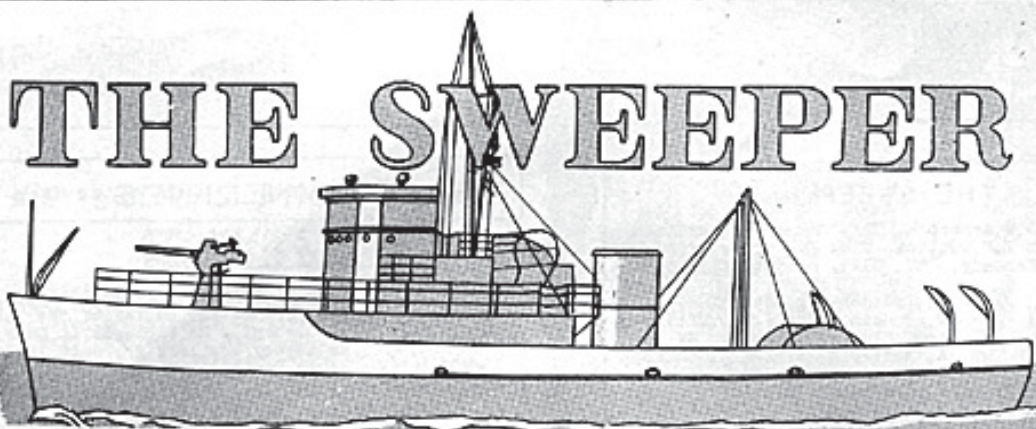
Following the ceremonies, these vessels will complete decommissioning maintenance availabilities, and then be towed to Beaumont, Texas.

The Osprey Class ships are being decommissioned because the threat they were designed to counter has largely evaporated. The Coastal Mine Hunters were designed to respond to a large scale mining campaign against the Continental United States ports and harbors. Newer, more portable technologies now handle that role.



Surprise!!!

SOME MINE COUNTERMEASURES HISTORY



NAVAL MINE WARFARE SCHOOL

YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

October 27, 1944

MARK I MCD. 20

'SWEEPIN' ON TO GLORY' CHOSEN NMWS SONG

PHOTO SERVICE STARTS

A new photo portrait service will be inaugurated on the station beginning November 1, with W.O. Bennett, Sp(P)lc and D.E. Fleming, CMjc handling the photography. The Photo Portrait Shop will be located just off the lobby in the Auditorium, and will operate on Wednesdays and Fridays between 1800 and 2000 and on alternate Sundays (port duty weeks only) between 1300 and 1500.

Photographs may be had in three sizes at the following prices: 8X10 - 1 for \$1., additional prints at 50¢ each; 5X7 - 1 for 80¢, additional prints at 40¢ each; 4X5 - 1 for 60¢, additional prints at 30¢ each. The finished pictures may be picked up at Ship's Service store counter one week after they are taken. Fine workmanship and materials will guarantee excellent photographic work. Chits must be purchased at Ship's Service before pictures are taken.

100 NAZI SHIPS WRECKED BY BRITISH MINES

In the allied invasion of Normandy, British mines sank or badly damaged 100 Nazi ships. About 30 percent of the damage was caused by mines planted by naval forces, the others were aerial mines laid by the RAF.

These facts were revealed in a recent communique from the British Admiralty and Air Ministry and reported by the Associated Press. Special types of mines (not described) were developed by the Admiralty for the purpose.

CIGARETTE SALES LIMITED

Effective immediately, the purchase of cigarettes will be seriously curtailed at Ship's Service because of the general shortage. This move is necessitated in order to distribute the limited supply equitably.

The order originating with the Chief of the Bureau of Personnel reads as follows: "The sale of cigarettes will be limited to not more than 2 packages to one individual in any one day." This order covers all brands and is already in operation.

WAR FUND DRIVE TOTALS \$446.50

With returns in from the fifth and final movie collection, the total donations received for the War Fund Drive at NMWS amounts to \$446.50. The largest single night's collection was for the showing of "Arsenic And Old Lace" where \$98.42 was donated. For those handling the local drive, THE SWEEPER wants to extend thanks. Many important war agencies will benefit from your donation.



Pictured above is V.P. Lynch, Y3c, winner of the Station Song Contest, receiving his prize of \$10. from the hands of Cmdr. L.H. Cutting. The winning lyrics to "Sweepin' On To Glory" are printed below. When set to music the song will be adopted as the official station song.

SWEEPIN' ON TO GLORY

If you're looking for adventure,
and danger is your name,
Then climb aboard a Sweeper,
you'll find it is our game.
We will hoist our anchors higher,
and sail into the sun,
And we will not retire
until the job is done.

Chorus:
Between the dark waves fury,
and the plane-filled sky above,
We'll fight to save our comrades,
and the ships of the land we love.
We will brave the dangerous waters,
let the enemy beware.
And wherever there's a battle,
you will find a Sweeper there.
When at last we drop our anchor,
in Heaven's peaceful sea,
You will find the U.S. Minemen,
are there to keep it free.

-2-

You'll feel the cold salt water,
in spray against your face,
And hear the hidden thunder
of depth bombs out in space.
You'll know that you've been sailing
with a crew of fighting men,
Who ask for just one favor,
that they may fight again.

**Association of Minemen
P.O.Box 69
Eutawville, SC 29048-0069**

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NAME _____ RANK/RATE/CIVTITLE _____

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CITY _____ TEL _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ SIGNATURE _____

ELGIBILITY _____ APPROVED _____

Application fee \$5
Annual Dues \$15

NOTICE: To maintain membership, dues of \$15.00
must be paid annually by the month of October.
The dues expiration date is October in the year
above your name on your mailing label.

Mail Checks to:
Association of Minemen
P.O. Box 69
Eutawville, SC 29048-0069